

Claim Amendments

1. (currently amended) Apparatus for reducing cracking at the body-shank junctions of a hardened die block, said apparatus including, in combination

an electric heat source in close proximity to the body-shank junction portion of the die block,

said electric heat source being positioned arranged to apply direct heat directly to the body-shank junction portion of the die block, and in an amount such that the body-shank portion, only, of the die block is softened to a level at which subsequent cracking at a shank-body junction of the die block is substantially eliminated, and

means for confining the heat from the electric heat source to the body-shank junction portion of the die block.

4. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 3 further characterized in that the means for confining the induction heating currents are substances selected from the group comprising stainless steel, granite ~~consisting essentially of non-magnetic rock, rock type~~ and ceramic materials which are capable of withstanding, without substantial distortion, the temperatures generated during treatment by the induction heating coil means.

5. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 4 further characterized in that the electric heat source is an induction heating coil means.

the induction heating coil means ~~being~~ are in abutting contact with the shank-body junction surface of a die block.

7. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 further characterized in that the electric current heat source consists of the infrared heating means comprised of are tungsten halogen lamps.

8. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7 further characterized in that the tungsten halogen lamps are spaced from ~~closely~~ to the body-shank junction portion of the die block.

9. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7 further characterized in that the infrared heating means are short wave tungsten halogen lamps, ~~are arranged to~~ operate in the short wave division of the electromagnetic spectrum.